



## **Background Paper**

**Committee:** UN Women

**Topic:** The Revolutionary Process of Kurdian Women Against Islamic Terrorism

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The definition of terrorism is 'the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.' and it has existed for a long time. This happens when a group of people protest in a political manner and use violence to get recognized. Some examples of terrorism are 9/11, The Boston Marathon Bombing, the Norway Attack, MUN attacks, Glasgow Airport Attack, and the Las Vegas Shooting. There are many types of terrorism: sub-revolutionary, establishment, and the one this committee will focus on, revolutionary terrorism. Kurdish Women are a group of people that are fighting against Islamic terrorism which holds its beliefs in religious motives. This group of women is constantly reporting problems regarding gender inequality, forced marriages, and deaths.

The Kurds are one of the oldest villages of the Middle East, and it is composed of 25 to 35 million people united by a common history, culture, and language. Kurdish people have lived for centuries in the Middle East, in a region located between Turkey, Iraq, Syria, and Iran. The Kurds do not have an official land, but the closest thing to having their own territory is Rojava, which is the autonomous administration of Northeast and East Syria, also known as Syrian Kurdistan. Rojava is an area with great diversity, in which minority groups live. These minority groups are Kurds, Assyrians, Arabs, Yezidis, and Armenians. All of them lived without problems of coexistence, mutually respecting their customs and religions. In Syria, a new project was established in 1965 with the name of the "Arab Belt" which made the Kurds of Rojava stop enjoying a prosperous life because the purpose of this project is to dispossess the Kurds of their land and Syrian citizenship, which is a policy of Arabization. After being silenced and without international support, some Kurds organized parties like the PKK Kurdistan Workers' Party in 1974 and YPG People's Protection Units in 2004 to defend their rights.

There is great gender inequality in the regions of Iraq and Syria in the Middle East. The political system is totally patriarchal, characterized by a vertical structure where women have no voice or vote, their life is restricted to private and not a public domain where the structure is equally vertical, where the man is superior and the woman obeys. This has become stronger since the Islamic State (ISIS) appeared. The Islamic State is the group that established a caliphate, which is a form of state-led by a political and

religious leader in accordance with Islamic or Sharia Law that controls a territory between the states of Syria and Iraq and claims to receive support from the entire Muslim population. They demand that everyone swears allegiance to their leader, the caliph, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. They are an extremely violent group which has killed approximately 33,000 people and they treat women as an object. When a woman is captured by this group they are brutally attacked, raped, sold and bought in the slave market, their children are taken from their hands, being forcibly converted to Islam. The territories controlled by the Islamic State include Mosul, Tikrit, Fallujah, and Tal Afar in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria; in addition to oil fields, dams, roads, and borderlines.

This scheme of cruelty against women is being broken by Kurdish women, who emerge from a context with interconnected systems of oppression, which motivates the formation of autonomous organizations of women that challenge gender roles. Some Kurdish women have made the decision not to have a family and to enlist in the army to defend their territory and the safety of women. They also challenge the political character. They have been supported by Kurdish men. The leader of the Kurdistan PKK workers' party Abdullah Öcalan declared "The freedom of the Kurdish people can be viewed as inseparably bound to women's freedom" in 2010.

Working together as a community can help combat this. Terrorist fighters travel back places such as Iraq and Syria and still have access to other countries like Libya, Afghanistan, and African countries. Tackling this is crucial, and supports the victims of these attacks. Besides thinking of solutions for combating terrorism, think about how to prevent them from happening, think about the strategies they have and ways to block from them being able to do it. The main recommendation to focus on should be in the borders, otherwise here are some specific ideas to bring in: border control, stop terrorist fighters, take advantage of air data when people are flying to detect anything alarming, and so many more!

*"Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance."*

— **Kofi Annan**

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